10/564539

LAP15 Rec'd PCT/PTO 12 JAN 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

ZHOU et al.

NL 030889

Serial No.

Group Art Unit

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

Ex.

2-4. (Canceled)

DY

5. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the portion of the nucleotide sequence is MEL7 promoter has the nucleotide sequence presented as nucleotides 156-1708 of SEQ ID NO:42.

6. (Canceled)

DS

7. (Currently amended) A plant expression vector comprising the <u>nucleic acid</u> molecule MEL7 promoter of claim 1.

8. (Currently amended) The plant expression vector of claim 7, wherein the MEL7-promoter is operably linked to a heterologous nucleic acid protein-encoding polynucleotide sequence.

PS

9. (Currently amended) The plant expression vector of claim 8, wherein the polynucleotide heterologous nucleic acid coding sequence is operably linked to a control sequences, in addition to the promoter, that is recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.